

Carolina country



Look!

INSIDE:
Eastern N.C. bears
Celebrating co-ops
Camden County

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
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PERIODICAL

Piedmont EMC explains why co-op membership is special—pages 21–24

SWISS DECLARE WAR ON US

Watchmakers are FURIOUS and luxury brands are LIVID,
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How dare Stauer break the unwritten rule in Switzerland? Chaos erupted at this year's Basel watch fair. The watchmaking elite attacked me in French, German and Italian (with the occasional British accent), outraged that Stauer would engineer a luxury Swiss-made timepiece for under \$100. They said it couldn't be done, but we did it anyway. Now you get to wear the spectacular Swiss-Made *Stauer Bienne* for **ONLY \$99!**

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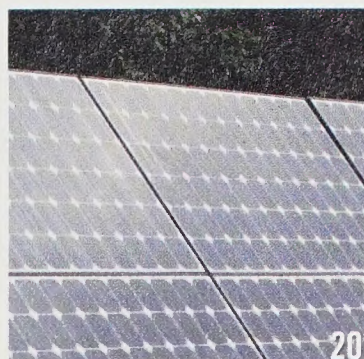
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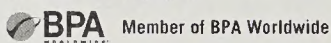
Nelle Hotchkiss

North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to nearly 900,000 homes and businesses. The 26 electric cooperatives are each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

Why Do We Send You Carolina Country Magazine?

Your cooperative sends you Carolina Country as a convenient, economical way to share with its members information about services, director elections, meetings and management decisions. The magazine also carries legal notices that otherwise would be published in other media at greater cost.

Your co-op's board of directors authorizes a subscription to Carolina Country on behalf of the membership at a cost of less than \$5 per year.



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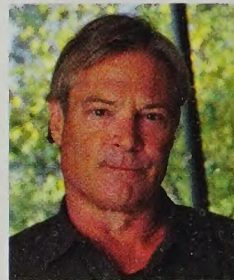
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Cooperatives work



By Michael E.C. Gery

Not long ago, when I first set out to make a living, I realized that housing, transportation and food were my biggest expenses. Many of my peers were in the same situation. We lived way out in the country. Some of us drove 30 or 40 miles to work and a grocery. It didn't take long for us to help one another get by. Eight of us rented a big old farmhouse and planted a garden. We shared the kitchen, and alternated preparing meals and doing chores. We shared rides and helped one another repair those vehicles when they broke down. And we joined the local, newly formed food cooperative.

Joining the food co-op required a membership fee. We paid a woman named Sharon to manage the weekly orders. We took turns driving a truck each week to a larger food cooperative 30 miles away where we'd pick up the cheese, beans, flour, rice, nuts, peanut butter, cooking oil, whatever fruits and vegetables they had. And we all met in a church basement that evening where Sharon and volunteers sorted the orders.

Cooperative businesses—which are celebrated each October—are alive and well in America. Across the nation, 29,000 co-ops and credit unions employ 850,000 people and generate \$74 billion in annual wages and nearly \$500 billion in revenue. They all operate by the same principles: They are not-for-profit, owned by members, are democratically controlled, and they return to members any revenue not required to maintain and grow the business. Your electric cooperative operates the same way.

When J.C. Blucher Ehringhaus of Elizabeth City ran for governor in 1932, he cited an N.C. State College survey reporting that 99 of every 100 farms in the state had no electricity, at a time when people in cities and large towns did. At his urging, the General

Assembly in April 1935 established the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority (NCREA) “to secure electrical service for the rural districts of the State where service is not now being rendered.” The same act provided for “electric membership corporations” to be formed, “not organized for pecuniary profit,” but to provide electricity to their rural communities.

Later in 1935, the Roosevelt administration created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) as part of the federal “relief” initiatives to put people to work during the Great Depression. Soon, however, visionaries leading the effort turned the REA into a lending agency. And after protracted arguments among private and city-owned electric utilities, the same visionaries convinced Congress to make REA a permanent agency to loan primarily to cooperatives that were formed and governed by the rural people who would be served by them. The REA also crafted legal structures, engineering standards and assistance, and educational programs to ensure sound management and construction of the rural cooperatives' systems. In the Tarboro area, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC in May 1936 was among the first 18 co-ops to obtain an REA loan.

It was an amazingly successful movement. In North Carolina, the NCREA, Extension agents and others worked together to survey the needs, help organize co-ops and build systems, finance appliances and teach people how to benefit from it all. Just 20 years after the REA, more than 95 percent of the state's farm communities had electricity.

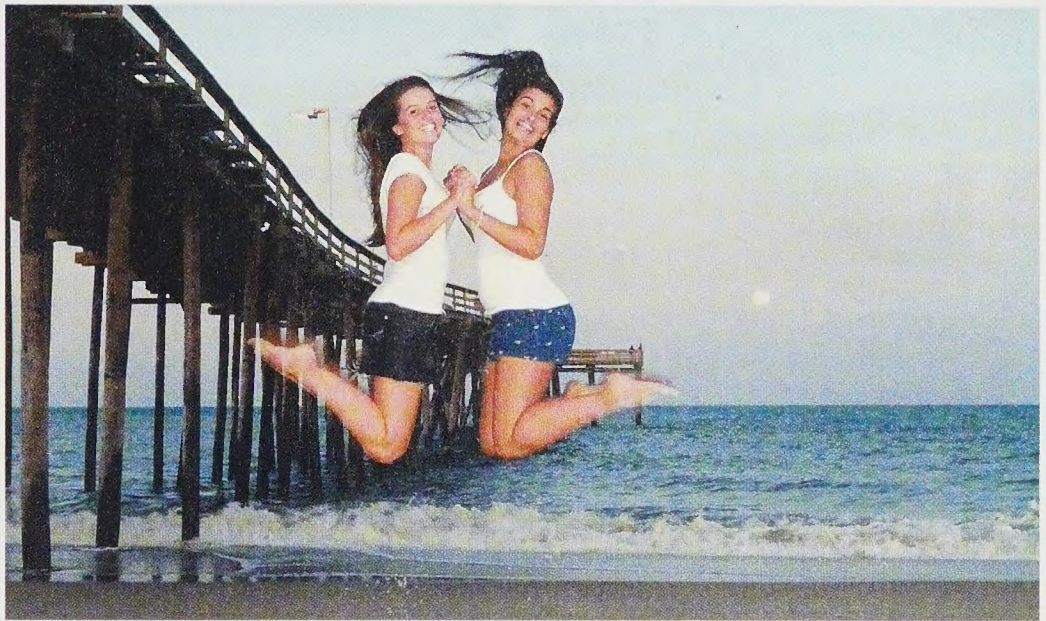
As former Congressman Jerry Voorhis wrote in “American Cooperatives,” his 1961 book, “What commercial business couldn't do cooperative business accomplished brilliantly.”

I still hang clothes out (most days)

I loved both of the articles on laundry—the May 2013 one by Donna Smith and August 2013 one by Vina Doss. I was born and raised on a farm in Seven Springs, Wayne County. My Mom never had a dryer and always hung her clothes out. I used her clothesline, and the neighbor said she never could tell if it was me or my mother hanging out clothes due to our size. In the winter time I can remember the clothes freezing as my mother hung them out.

It was a treat to go to bed at night and smell those fresh sheets. I still hang my clothes out, but I have to be careful of hog houses across the road in the woods, because if the wind is blowing a certain way I may have to wait another day. Yes, I do have a dryer, but I only use it when it's raining or it's an emergency. I notice that very few people on my road hang out clothes anymore.

Barbara Shepard, Seven Springs, Tri-County EMC



Beach life

These are my two granddaughters, Ashley and Adrian Burrus, at the Frisco Pier back when it was intact!

Millie Burrus, Buxton, Cape Hatteras Electric



Old life

Recently we had an unusual visitor. The big fellow is on one of our stepping stones. I hope people can appreciate the beautiful benefits of nature and a wonderful God who allows us to see it. Life is so grand.

Sybil Levan, Troutman



Still life

I am 13 and in the 8th grade. When I get older I want to be a photographer. I love the pictures in Carolina Country magazine, so I took some pictures specifically for you.

Allyssa Blake, Raeford, Lumbee River EMC

Real life

I took this photo in my backyard with my G11 Canon camera. I am not sure what kind of fly it is.

Frank Ellison, Clemmons



Simple life

Peyton Huffman, 5, at home in Ellerbe, where there are kids who still love the outdoors and the simple pleasures of life.

Jessica Huffman and Bruce Cloninger, Ellerbe, Pee Dee EMC

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Bill can teach horses to be calm and respectful.



Bill Minchew kept climbing to reach his dream

by Lisa Minchew

In January 2000, just two weeks before the birth of our first child, my husband, Bill, was laid off from the golf cart business he had been working at for several years. Luckily, the next day a friend offered him a maintenance job at a nearby plant. He was relieved but had no idea where his life was going at that point.

Soon he started getting calls from people asking him to work on their golf carts. So he started repairing golf carts after work at night in one of the stalls of the horse barn behind our house.

We don't always know where life is taking us.

Right after our daughter was born, Feb. 15, he made a hard decision: He sold his horse to buy parts and assembled a used golf cart to put up for sale. Within six months, he quit the plant and Bill's Golf Carts was


officially up and running in what used to be our horse barn.

Eventually, Bill was able to get another horse and build another horse barn, but he rode only occasionally. I knew how much he loved horses and remembered his earlier dreams of working with horses as a business. As a gift, I arranged for him to go to a natural horsemanship clinic with a well-known trainer in April 2007. He was hooked and knew he had found something he loved to do.

Bill knew how to take horses that no one else could handle and teach them to be calm and respectful. Natural horsemanship isn't something many people in eastern North Carolina have heard of, so this led Bill to working with horses to help others.

Now, my daughter is 12, and we also have a son and a thriving golf cart business. And through his own perseverance and hard work, Bill is blessed to spend time working horse shows and clinics to teach others how to have a willing and safe partnership with their horses. He has performed demos of natural horsemanship, as well as trained and sold a number of horses that otherwise may have been tossed to the side.

Bill has branched out into performing for numerous charity events, to help raise money for autism and for therapeutic riding events. He has traveled to do shows for many church groups all around North Carolina.

We don't always know where life is taking us, but with the right tools, hard work and determination anything is possible. 

Lisa and Bill Minchew and their family live in Goldsboro and are members of Tri-County EMC electric cooperative.

Send Your Story

If you have a story for "Where Life Takes Us," about an inspiring person who is helping others today, or about your own journey, send it to us with pictures.

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- Pictures must be high resolution or good quality prints.
- We retain reprint rights.
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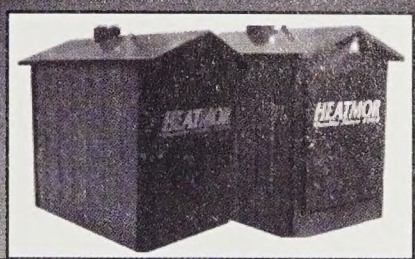
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CAROLINA COUNTRY SCENES photo contest



RULES:

Deadline: December 10, 2013.

One entry per household.

Digital photos should be a minimum of 1200 by 1800 pixels.
Prints a minimum of 4 x 6 inches.

Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and e-mail address or phone number.

If you want your print returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)

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We will post on our websites more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)

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USDA assists 45 North Carolina farm projects

The U.S. Department of Agriculture this summer funded 631 projects nationwide intended to help farms and rural small businesses reduce energy consumption and turn to renewable energy sources. Of those, 45 were in North Carolina.

Loans and grants of about \$21 million came from the USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill.

"As part of the Obama administration's 'all-of-the-above' energy strategy, USDA continues to work with America's farmers, ranchers and rural businesses to help them save energy and improve their bottom line," said USDA Sec. Tom Vilsack in August.

Under the terms of REAP, up to 25 percent of an eligible energy production or conservation project can be funded through a grant, and additional support can be provided in the form of a loan. Since the start of the Obama administration, REAP has helped fund nearly 7,000 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects nationwide.

Some examples of North Carolina projects are:

- The Tate Family Farm in Guilford County will use a \$7,403 grant to install an energy-efficient geothermal system.
- Yarbrow Farms in Cleveland County was awarded a \$15,624 grant to make lighting, heating and insulation improvements to four poultry houses.
- Butler Farms in Harnett County was selected to receive a \$16,250 grant to upgrade an anaerobic digester system to produce electricity from the farm's waste stream.

Other North Carolina projects involved installing photovoltaic solar electric systems, new irrigation systems, improved lighting, wood pellet furnaces, solar water heating, improved tobacco curing systems, and energy-efficient poultry houses.

Agricultural producers who gain 50 percent or more of their gross income from agricultural operations are eligible for the REAP program. Small businesses that are located in a rural area can also apply. Eligible feasibility studies for renewable energy systems include projects that will produce energy from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, hydro power and hydrogen-based sources. The energy to be produced includes heat, electricity or fuel. Systems must be located in a rural area, must be technically feasible, and must be owned by the applicant.

For more information on REAP, contact the USDA office in Raleigh at (919) 873-2000 or visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/NCContacts.html.



All electric cooperatives in North Carolina hold annual meetings so that members can hear reports and presentations about the business. Here, members and guests settle in for the Roanoke Electric Cooperative annual meeting.

Can you help collect fishing gear?

Fishermen and volunteers are needed for a North Carolina Coastal Federation pilot project in January that will remove abandoned fishing gear from northeastern North Carolina waters. With funding from NOAA and N.C. Sea Grant, commercial watermen will be employed to help N.C. Marine Patrol during the "no-potting" period, typically Jan. 15-Feb. 7. This project is intended to improve habitat and water quality, while simultaneously supporting commercial watermen.

The collection is anticipated to take place from the Currituck Sound southward to Oregon Inlet, including parts of the Albemarle Sound. Side-scan sonar will be used on some boats to detect abandoned gear underwater. Approximately 12 fishermen and a large number of volunteers are needed. Applications are due on Oct. 15. To obtain an application or more information about the project contact Ladd Bayliss at (252) 473-1607 or laddb@nccoast.org

Energy Efficiency Tip

Keep wintery drafts out of your home by sealing cracks and gaps. Weatherstripping around doors and windows works well when you can see daylight between the frame and the wall or floor. Use caulk to seal around the frames where you see gaps. For more tips and tricks, visit EnergySavers.gov.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com



How to get refreshments at a reasonable price

Students who attended the 2013 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June got a chance to experience cooperative business practices

first hand when they joined the Soda Pop Co-op. As with any co-op formed to provide a service that is otherwise

unavailable to a community because of cost, the Soda Pop Co-op gave students an opportunity to purchase discounted drinks and snacks in high-priced Washington, D.C.

"I found it really economical because prices there are really high," said Kevonnie Williams, a student sponsored by Halifax EMC.

The co-op provided more than just hydration as students learned how a cooperative works. They elected a five-member board to lead the business. The board hired a general manager and an assistant general manager who handled the day-to-day operations of the co-op, much like their electric cooperatives back home.

"I had to refill the ice, keep up with the sodas, manage the money," said Keigan Parker (EnergyUnited), who was hired as the co-op's general manager.

"It was a good experience. It taught me a little bit about the business world."

EnergyUnited's general manager Wayne Wilkins was happy to hear of Keigan's selection as the Soda Pop

Co-op manager. "I'm glad we were able to send Keigan on this trip and even happier that he was selected for this leadership opportunity," Wilkins

"The Soda Pop Co-op was my savior because I was always thirsty and hungry, and I did not want to spend money on anything!"

—Brianna Mooney, Union Power

said. "From one general manager to another, I can tell him that the job is a rewarding experience."

The Soda Pop Co-op wasn't all business. Like all cooperatives, the Soda Pop Co-op adhered to the cooperative principles including concern for community. When the co-op disbursed capital credits from its operating margins at the end of the week, the membership voted to contribute the money to a charity helping Oklahoma cooperative members who were affected by tornados this past May.

To see a video interview with Soda Pop Co-op board president Jesse Bunton of Rutherford EMC, visit CarolinaCountry.com.



Keigan Parker was appointed manager of the Youth Tour's Soda Pop Co-op. He was sponsored on the tour by EnergyUnited.

The 7 Principles of Cooperative Businesses

Voluntary and Open Membership:

Membership in a cooperative is available to all who can reasonably use its services, regardless of race, religion, sex or economic circumstances.

Democratic Member Control: Co-ops are democratically controlled, with each member having one vote. As a result, control remains in the hands of all customers. Directors are elected from the membership.

Members' Economic Participation:

Cooperatives provide services "at cost" and remain not-for-profit regardless of the value of benefits delivered. Any money left over after all expenses are paid—margins—belongs to the members. Each member's share in the margin is determined by the amount of his or her use of the co-op's services.

Autonomy and Independence:

Cooperatives are self-sustaining, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If cooperatives enter into agreements with others or raise money from outside sources, they do so on terms that maintain democratic control as well as their unique identity.

Education, Training and Information:

Keeping members, directors, managers and employees up to date on issues so they can effectively govern the co-op. Communication, particularly with young members and opinion leaders, helps generate necessary public support for cooperatives.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives:

Mutual support helps cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

Concern For Community: Cooperatives develop communities with programs supported by the membership.

To learn about electric cooperatives, visit nreca.coop. For details on different types of cooperatives, visit ncba.coop and stories.coop.

Try This!

Solar water heaters

Weighing pros and cons

By Brian Sloboda

Solar hot water systems are a time-tested and efficient method of harnessing the sun's rays and saving on energy costs.

Solar hot water systems are relatively simple: The sun shines on a dark-colored tank or collector and heats the water inside. They must be matched to a heating load—the volume of hot water needed for the size of your home and its number of occupants.

The most common use is to preheat domestic water—what goes to sinks and showers. Larger, much more complex systems can also supply hot water for a whole house, including washing clothes and dishes. These can also be a good option if you need to heat water for a swimming pool.

Heating domestic water typically accounts for about 20 percent of a household's energy bill, or \$100 to \$300 per year. But a well-designed solar water heating system can nearly eliminate that energy use.

A basic model costs anywhere from \$4,000 to \$8,000, with a payback of 10 to 20 years for most consumers. However, federal tax incentives (30 percent) and state tax credits (35 percent) can shorten that period significantly. Check the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency at dsireusa.org.

There are two main choices when shopping for a solar hot water system:

Active versus passive: Active systems feature circulating pumps and controls that move water. Passive systems simply use pressure of the water system within the house to move water.

Direct vs. indirect: Direct (or “open loop”) systems circulate household water through solar collectors and into the home. Direct systems can be used only in mild climates that do not experience freezing conditions. Indirect (“closed loop”) systems circulate an antifreeze solution through the collectors to a heat exchanger, where the potable water absorbs the heat. They can also be designed so the water retreats back into the house at night. Indirect systems can be used in any climate.

One challenge is what to do with excess heat at the solar panel when there is no hot water demand—for example, in the summer if you go on vacation for an extended time. Drainback systems, if properly designed, can solve this problem, but other options include a “dummy load” to dump excess heat, night discharge controls, high-pressure operation to prevent boiling in the panel, and oversized expansion



A technician (Doug Powell) from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory checks the piping on an experiment involving natural convection loops for pipe freeze protection in a solar water heating system. This system is an integral collector storage system. These natural convection loops would work for any system having potable water exposed to ambient air.

tanks that can handle the volume change when the fluid in the panel actually does boil. Local contractors can assist in choosing a setup that best addresses these issues.

Economics of solar hot water depend on several things, such as the cost of the fuel that the system replaces, when and how much hot water is used, incoming water temperature, and how much sunlight your location receives. The U.S. Department of Energy provides an online tool to estimate the initial costs and payback period for a solar hot water system at energy.gov/energysaver/articles/solar-water-heaters.

Consideration of PV panels

Consumers interested in going solar may want to consider the pros and cons of solar hot water versus deploying solar electric photovoltaic (PV) panels. Until recently, solar hot water was the more cost-effective option, but decreasing PV prices and economic and tax incentives have re-energized the debate between the two technologies. The decision depends on local factors, including hot water demand and climate.

For a family of four, solar hot water typically is the logical choice. However, electricity generated from PV panels can power your whole house and pump power back into the grid when not needed on site. Before investing in a PV or any other type of “backyard” renewable energy system, contact your local electric cooperative to discuss interconnection costs and other issues associated with it. **G**

Brian Sloboda is a senior program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

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The Chinese silver rush is on!

The China Silver Panda has been one of the world's most popular coins for the last thirty years. But remarkably, an old 1949 law prohibited Chinese citizens from owning these coins until the law was changed in 2004. When the law was finally changed, millions of China's prosperous new middle class buyers flooded into the market. The Chinese silver rush is on!

A LAST CHANCE Opportunity—Lock In and SAVE!

China Pandas are one of our customers favorite silver coins. In fact, we've already sold over 50,000 of these 2013 Silver Pandas to eager collectors across the country. Now, we are releasing our final allocation of just 7,715 coins and you can lock in yours at our lowest prices ever for these One Ounce 2013 China Silver Pandas in stunning Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition.

Current prices for past-year Pandas:

Due to availability and demand, some past-year One Ounce Silver Pandas command impressive values these days:

1998 Silver Panda	\$258.00
2001 Silver Panda	\$154.00
2003 Silver Panda	\$155.00
2004 Silver Panda	\$165.00

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As a distributor, we are making our official mint allocation available on a strictly first come, first served basis. By ordering today, you can lock in our lowest price—plus the security of our full 30-day satisfaction guarantee. If you are not satisfied with your coins, simply return them within 30 days for a full refund (*less all s/h*).



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How's business?

Electric cooperatives are businesses, but unlike typical private electric utilities, cooperatives are owned by their consumers, not by stockholders. Also, cooperatives are not-for-profit businesses. Their revenue is used to provide electric service to their consumer-members. Any margins that remain beyond funds needed to maintain and grow the business are returned to consumer-members, according to their patronage, as "capital credits" or "member dividends."

As an owner of your cooperative, you may be interested in how business has been in recent years. Following are summaries of reports for the year 2011 issued in June by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. (Special thanks to David Olivier.)

Sales & growth

Nationwide, cooperatives saw a slight increase in sales in 2011. During the depth of the recession (2009), sales declined nearly 2%, then rose 7% in 2010 and again by .4% in 2011. The slow growth in sales could be attributed in part to consumers' effective energy efficiency strategies. (In the electric industry as a whole, sales declined slightly in 2011.)

Even so, co-ops are outpacing the electric utility industry as a whole in sales growth, and that has been the case since 1997. (See graph.)

Overall, co-op growth in membership itself has been slow in recent years. After seeing annual growth rates of between 2% and 3% from 1974 to 2007, growth has been less than 1% per year since 2009. There are some exceptions, especially in suburban areas.

Costs & rates

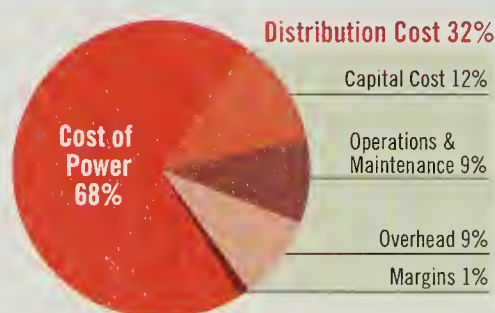
Because the cost to generate and buy wholesale electricity has been rising in recent years, consumer rates have risen as well. Since 2000, a typical household's monthly electric bill has risen a total of \$48, or 1.8% per year, adjusted for inflation. (That increase, however,



is less than the 2.5% inflation rate itself during that period.) Across the nation, co-op rates in 2011 climbed 2.1%, which was more than the .3% they rose in 2010. As the industry steps up investment in infrastructure and technology, consumer rates are expected to continue upward.

Your cooperative faces two main cost factors: the cost to acquire electric power (from generation plants or from other utilities on the wholesale market) and the cost to distribute power to member homes and businesses (including personnel, substations, poles, lines, vehicles, debt, etc.) On average, power costs comprise two-thirds of a co-op's costs, while distribution costs comprise the other third. (See chart.)

Co-op Cost Structure




On average, power costs represent over two-thirds of a distribution co-op's total costs. Distribution costs make up the other third.

Between 2007 and 2011, power costs to co-ops nationally rose about 16%. During the same period, co-op distribution costs rose 18%.

NRECA calculates that co-ops spent \$439 per member to deliver electricity in 2011. A co-op's expenses to build and maintain its system are generally higher per customer than they are for investor-owned or municipal utilities because co-ops serve a far lower density of accounts (fewer accounts per mile of power line) than other utilities.

Capital credits

In recent years, the amount of capital credits that co-ops have returned to members—either in the form of credits on electric bills or cash payments—has increased. In 2011, co-ops returned 19.7% more in capital credits than the year before. And the amount has risen every year since 1990. 

This is the 14th in a series produced by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.

What you can do

Your cooperative can help you manage your electric costs in a number of ways. Contact your cooperative to learn what programs are available to members.

Breakthrough technology converts phone calls to captions.

New amplified phone lets you hear AND see the conversation.

The Captioning Telephone converts phone conversations to easy-to-read captions for individuals with hearing loss.

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The Bears

**Black bears are
roaming the farms,
communities and
wildlands of eastern
North Carolina**

By Donna Campbell Smith

Not long ago, overhunting and loss of habitat sent North Carolina's black bears to the brink of extinction. Bears roamed only in the most remote areas of western and coastal North Carolina. In the 1930s, an effort began to manage wildlife, including black bears, and to enforce wildlife laws. Black bears, the only bear found in the state, are now at an all-time healthy population. Black bears live in 60 percent of the total land area of our state. The abundant food sources in the northeastern parts of North Carolina make those counties especially hospitable to bears.

Doris Morris, who leads tours for the Friends of Pocosin Lakes, says mating season begins in May. She has seen mama bears with as many as three cubs. She says each cub can have a different daddy, as the sow will mate with more than one male during the season.

You've perhaps seen video of bears wandering into towns. Even the city of Raleigh has had some occasional bear visits. While the bear population has increased in North Carolina, it is interesting to note that nature has provided black bears with a unique system of population control.

A female has her first litter of cubs when she is 2 to 11 years old. Whether she has a litter at all depends on whether or not there is plentiful food. Nature has built in a system for bears not provided for most other mammals

that prevents them from producing offspring when food is scarce. The process is called delayed implantation. The fertilized egg develops into a small embryo, and then it stops growing for several months. If the female doesn't acquire sufficient weight in those months the embryo will not develop. Her body reabsorbs it. If food is plentiful and the sow has the required weight, the embryo develops and baby bears are born in January or February.

A fed bear is a dead bear

The sow has cubs about every two years if conditions are good. Cubs stay with their mother for about 18 months. The bears we see wandering into human subdivisions are often those young bears who are looking for territory of their own and for a mate. They are just passing through, and the best way to handle them is to let them be.

Don't leave pet food or garbage where they can get into it and don't harass them. By all means never feed them. Wildlife experts will tell you, "A fed bear is a dead bear." Feeding bears causes them to become nuisances, and sometimes they have to be killed. If left alone, the visiting bear will soon move on.

Bears & farms

Black bears are omnivores; they will eat just about anything. Normally their preferred foods consist of nuts, acorns, fruits and berries, and insects. They eat meat and grasses or other rough vegetation only when their favorite foods are not available. In the farming country of northeast North Carolina, black bears have adapted their tastes to corn, soybeans and peanuts.

Most farmers have learned to live with the bears in spite of their foraging in their fields. Hunting helps control the numbers of bears damaging crops.

Gail Harrison Hodges' family has farmed in Washington County since the 1920s. In the beginning, her father had only a few acres of corn, and a bear family in his corn was a real financial blow. In those early days, traps controlled bears that damaged crops. In those days, Gail says, "When my Dad trapped or shot a bear, we ate it, as we did anything Daddy hunted or killed."

Gail says her brother who now farms the family land feels more protective of the bears, understanding that humans have encroached into what was once the bears' territory. "You used to have to go to the woods to see them," Gail says. "Now they are in our backyards, which used to be their homes."

Jess Spruill, who also farms in Washington County, says bears can have a financial impact on both corn and soybeans in his operation. Bears will eat the corn ears when they reach full maturity and graze on newly emerged soybeans. Jess watches for the bears and tries to run them out of the soybeans. Once the beans mature, the bears do not seem as attracted to them. Bears are harder to spot in the tall corn. Jess says it is very common to lose up to 40 yards from the woods of any harvestable crop.

Recently, Jess Spruill has encountered another problem—bears vandalizing cotton bales. "The biggest new problem

with the bears is in regard to the new self-baling cotton pickers. The bears are very interested in the plastic-wrapped modules. Some say they like the glue in the wrap. Whatever the case, during their inspection of the bales their claws pop holes in the plastic and the compression of the lint inside causes an explosion, leaving a busted bale and cotton all over the ground.” He says once a bear pops a bale the first time, he is likely to do it over and over until the field is empty of the modules.


Bear facts

Bears typically roam from daybreak until dusk. Their territory ranges from one to two miles for young bears and up to eight to 15 miles for adult males. Females range two to six miles. There are records of bears traveling up to 126 miles.

If not killed, black bears can live up to 33 years. According to “Bear Facts,” published by the North American Bear Center, very few black bears outside of those in national parks die of natural causes. Most are shot or hit by motor vehicles. The average age of bears killed by hunters is 3 to 5 years old. Young bears sometimes die of starvation and accidental causes; seldom do bears die of disease.

Black bears are rather quiet animals, but do have a range of sounds. They grunt as they look for food. They make a low blowing sound and clack their teeth when afraid. It is reported they make almost human-like sounds that indicate pleasure or sometimes fear. Cubs on the other hand can put out quite a racket, bawling like a baby when they are upset.

Bears are not particularly aggressive

as long as people exercise good common sense, as they should with any wild animal. While bears are not prone to attack unless provoked, who can say what might provoke a bear? Observe from a distance and do not harass a bear by following or crowding it. The National Park Service in the Great Smoky Mountains recommends keeping at least 150 feet between you and the bear. 

Donna Campbell Smith is a Carolina Country contributing writer who lives in Franklin County. She is a member of Wake Electric. Learn about her at donnacampbellsmith.com

See the bears

- Check for tours and sightings at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. fws.gov/alligatorriver or alligatorriver@fws.gov or (252) 473-1131
- Friends of Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in cooperation with the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge conducts periodic wildlife and bear tours, which last about three hours. Visitors ride in an air-conditioned passenger van through the refuge and are encouraged to bring their cameras along. Pre-registration for reservations is required. Contact: Doris Morris doris.morris@noolf.com
- Bear hunting seasons (October–December) vary by county. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has the seasons, limits and other regulations on their website: www.ncwildlife.org
- Bear watching advice from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: www.fws.gov/raleigh/black_bear2009.html



About the bears

The black bear is a very intelligent mammal. Researchers say they are the most intelligent non-human animal in North America. Their simple concept level is about the same as a three-year-old child.

Bears have a long memory and their ability to navigate exceeds that of humans.

They can use tools such as sticks and branches to scratch, and will pick up and throw objects such as rocks, aiming at each other.

They are good swimmers and can swim a distance of at least one mile.

Black bears run faster than humans, about 30 mph if they are in lean shape, running up or down hill as well as level ground.

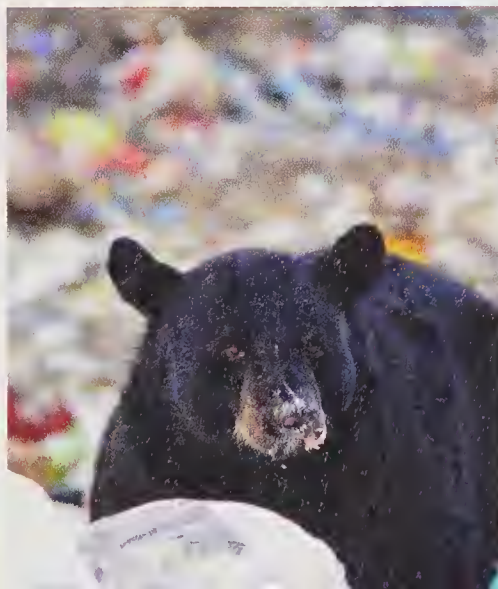
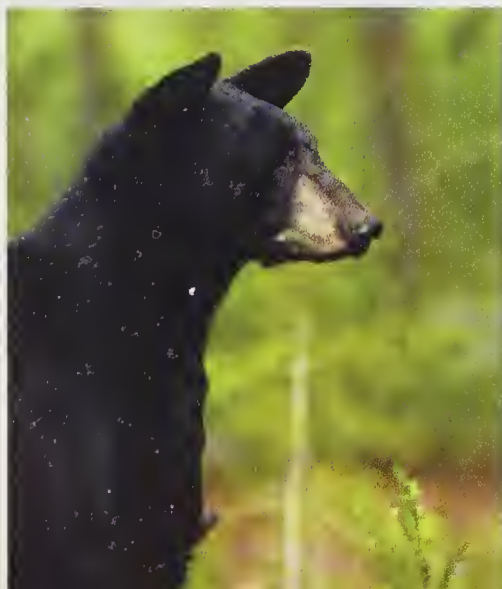
They are also good tree climbers.

Bears see in color and have good close up vision. Their distance vision has not been tested.

Bears have a very good sense of smell and have at least twice the hearing sensitivity of humans.

Not all black bears are black; some are brown or even blonde. They have a brown muzzle and some sport a white patch on their chests. They are born with blue eyes that turn brown with maturity.

Adult male black bears weigh an average of 125 to 500 pounds. The heaviest bear recorded in the U.S. weighed 880 pounds. A 10-year-old male, it was shot in 1998 in Craven County. Wild females average between 90 and 300 pounds.



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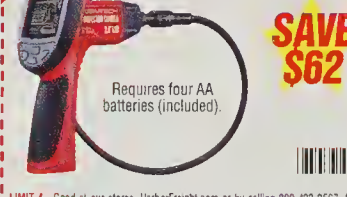
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SUPER COUPON!

9 PIECE FULLY POLISHED COMBINATION WRENCH SETS

PITTSBURGH SAE

LOT NO. 42304/69043

SAVE 60%

\$5.99

REG. PRICE \$14.99

Item 42304 shown

62886459

YOUR CHOICE!

LIMIT 7 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 1/23/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

90 AMP FLUX WIRE WELDER

LOT NO. 68887/61207

CHICAGO ELECTRIC WELDING

NO GAS REQUIRED!

SAVE \$60

\$89.99

REG. PRICE \$149.99

Item 68887 shown

17684839

LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 1/23/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

CENTRALPNEUMATIC 3/8" x 50 FT. HEAVY DUTY PREMIUM RUBBER AIR HOSE

LOT NO. 69580

SAVE 40%

\$17.99

REG. PRICE \$29.99

Item 69580 shown

31201051

LIMIT 7 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 1/23/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

BADLAND 2000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH REMOTE CONTROL AND AUTOMATIC BRAKE

LOT NO. 68146/61258/61297

SAVE \$50

\$49.99

REG. PRICE \$99.99

Item 68146 shown

35442638

LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 1/23/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

PITTSBURGH 1 TON CAPACITY FOLDABLE SHOP CRANE

LOT NO. 69445/69512/93840

INCLUDES RAM, HOOK AND CHAIN!

SAVE \$130

\$99.99

REG. PRICE \$229.99

Item 69512 shown

42649584

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 1/23/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

21 PIECE SAE/METRIC GO-THRU SOCKET SET

PITTSBURGH

LOT NO. 67974

SAVE 40%

\$17.99

REG. PRICE \$29.99

Item 67974 shown

41665320

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 1/23/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

ELECTRIC PAINT SPRAY GUN

LOT NO. 47274/60446

SAVE 40%

\$14.99

REG. PRICE \$24.99

Item 60446 shown

95231415

33 OZ.

LIMIT 6 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 1/23/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

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Hickory

Jacksonville
Kannapolis

Pineville
Winterville

Stanly County's First Doctor

Photography by Ashley Fetner

A legendary figure in the history of Stanly County, Dr. Francis J. Kron was born in Trier, Prussia, in 1798. In 1823, while in Paris, he married Mary Catherine Delamothe, and they came to the home of her uncle, Henry Delamothe, in Montgomery County. For a brief time, Francis taught French at the university in Chapel Hill and later studied medicine in Philadelphia.

In 1834, Francis and Mary purchased a house on 294 acres in what is now Morrow Mountain State Park. At one time the family owned more than 7,000 acres and ran a self-sufficient farm with slaves. Dr. Kron's home, medical office and greenhouse were reconstructed in the 1960s on their original sites in the state park, just as they appeared in 1870. Dr. Kron was as famous for his flowers and vegetables as he was for his medical practice. He died in 1883.

He traveled miles in horse and wagon to treat patients. His office served as an exam room, pharmacy and infirmary where patients stayed overnight when necessary. The office was furnished with three or four beds, a desk and shelves for medical supplies and books. Dr. Kron used a mortar and pestle to compound his own drugs. He would place a few drops of turpentine on a lump of brown sugar to treat different illnesses. He set broken bones, birthed babies, pulled teeth and performed amputations. His journals included prices:

Visit (am & pm).....	\$2.00
Laxative.....	\$.25
Blistering Plaster	\$.25
Expectorant Syrup.....	\$1.00

—Kay Fetner

Kay and Ashley Fetner live in Asheboro and are members of Randolph EMC. ashleyfetnerportraits.com



The infirmary

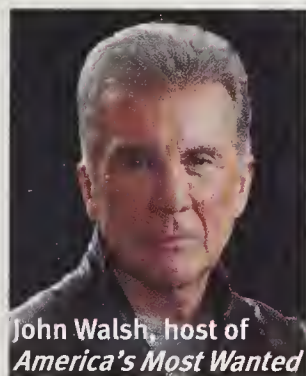


The greenhouse

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\$35 per month
with the Jitterbug GoPlan 24

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Contract**



Now, the original easy-to-use Jitterbug® is also your own mobile medical alert device. Why pay for an expensive, home-based emergency system and a separate cell phone when the Jitterbug does it all at a fraction of the cost?

SAFER You just never know when a situation will arise when you need help. You could call a family member or a friend, but they may be unavailable, unqualified to help or unable to locate you. With 5Star Urgent Response® on the Jitterbug, your phone becomes a mobile medical alert device. It's no wonder 5Star® is the preferred choice of renowned safety expert John Walsh. Just press 5 and then * to speak immediately with an NAED Certified Response Agent. Using patented GPS, these Agents will quickly determine your location, evaluate your situation and get you the help you need. At only \$24⁹⁹ per month, you'll save hundreds of dollars per year compared to our competitors' separate phone and medical alert services.



The only all-in-one cell phone and medical alert device.
Available in Silver and Red.

SMARTER Most cell phones need to be recharged nearly every day. That's why the Jitterbug comes with the longest-lasting battery on the market. With up to 25 days of standby time, you won't have to worry about running out of power when you need it most.

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Please mention promotional code 50749.

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443 billion kWh
of green power

the equivalent of providing
30,800 houses
with energy for a year

Carbon offset
projects have mitigated
10,300 tons
of greenhouse gases

NC GreenPower 10 years of supporting renewable energy in North Carolina

By Katie Shepherd

Fifteen years ago, the renewable energy landscape in North Carolina was very sparse. There were only a few large solar installations, wind turbines were practically nonexistent and less than a dozen landfill methane-to-energy projects were in operation. Then in 2001, a group of forward-thinking people came together to blaze a trail toward bringing green energy to North Carolina. Advanced Energy, then a 20-year-old non-profit in Raleigh,

How you can help

Contributions to NC GreenPower help to offset the higher costs associated with producing green energy and mitigating greenhouse gases. When you donate to NC GreenPower, you help support these cleaner, greener facilities that benefit all North Carolinians. Statewide efforts of NC GreenPower also include community outreach and student volunteer opportunities.

Donations to the program can be made by individuals or businesses through their utility bill or directly to NC GreenPower on its website: ncgreenpower.org. Projects are located within North Carolina, so you can be assured that your contribution will stay local, supporting a brighter future.

NC GreenPower is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit that administers the voluntary program on behalf of all utilities in North Carolina, helping to connect consumers with green energy and carbon offset providers to create positive environmental and economic impacts for our state. NC GreenPower was formed and is administered by Advanced Energy, a nonprofit that focuses on energy efficiency for residential, commercial and industrial markets, motors and drives and electric transportation.

NC GreenPower
909 Capability Drive
Suite 2100
Raleigh, NC 27606

(919) 716-6398
866-533-NCGP (6247)


info@ncgreenpower.org
ncgreenpower.org

began working with consumers, environmental representatives, electric utilities, technology suppliers and regulatory agencies to turn North Carolina into a national model for renewable energy.

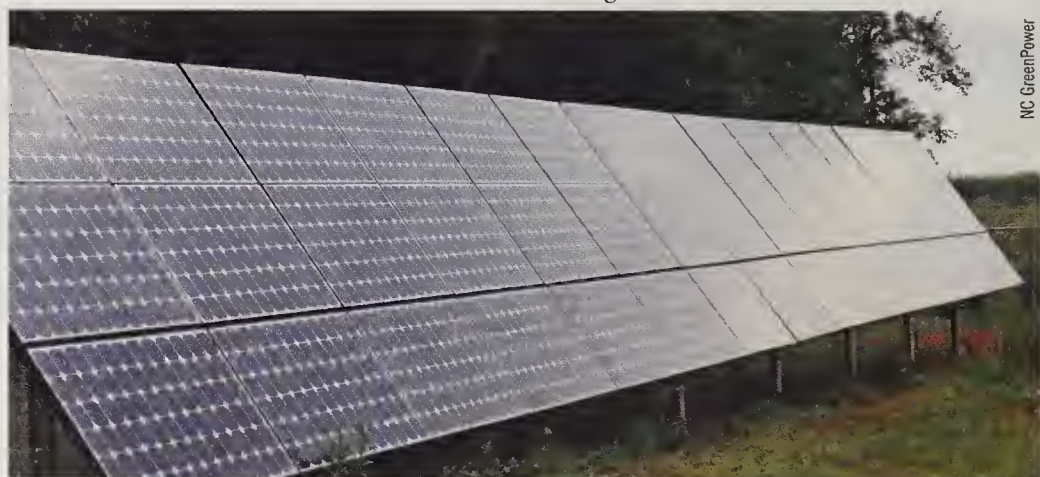
In October 2003, NC GreenPower was launched to supplement the state's existing power supply with more green energy—that is, energy generated from renewable energy sources like the sun, wind, water and organic matter. NC GreenPower's first projects began coming online in 2004. Two years later, the organization cut the ribbon for its first landfill generator and wind turbine. In 2008, the program added a carbon offset product, giving North Carolinians the opportunity to offset emissions caused by driving or other activities by mitigating greenhouse gases via landfill or hog lagoon methane capture projects. Fast forward to today and North Carolina boasts a ranking of 5th in the nation for solar electric (photovoltaic) installations, an achievement that was spurred by the creation of NC GreenPower in partnership with the utilities, including

North Carolina's electric cooperatives.

Since the launch of the program, NC GreenPower renewable energy projects have generated 443 billion kilowatt-hours of green power, and donors have helped provide nearly \$5.5 million in incentive payments to the owners of about 900 renewable energy projects, in almost every county across the state. That's the equivalent of providing 30,800 houses with energy for a year. Carbon offset projects have mitigated 10,300 tons of greenhouse gases—equivalent to the emissions from driving 29 million miles—and that's like planting 1.6 million trees.

Of the 600-plus green energy projects currently online through the NC GreenPower program, nearly a third of those are generating clean power within the North Carolina electric cooperative territories, providing both an economic and an environmental boost to those communities. Nearly 350 electric cooperative members have generated renewable energy for the NC GreenPower program over the last 10 years. 

Katie Shepard is marketing and communications manager with NC GreenPower.



This 10-kilowatt solar array in Burke County (Rutherford EMC service territory) has been generating electricity for the NC GreenPower program since 2009 with an average annual output of 14,000 kilowatt-hours. There are nearly 200 NC GreenPower-supported renewable energy projects in the areas served by the state's electric cooperatives.



CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2013



WHAT IS A CO-OP?

There are many different electric distribution services like us in North Carolina and even more nationwide. However, despite our obvious similarities, each one is different.

Electric co-ops like Piedmont Electric are owned by you, our members, because every customer is a member. You maintain democratic control of our utility, which means you have the power to elect fellow members to represent you on the board of directors at meetings. We are here to support your efforts, and we want to know how we can bring people with common needs and interests together.

Cooperatives are subject to less oversight by federal and state utility regulators because of the healthy way in which you, our members, regulate business practices, which allows us to be more responsive to the needs of our members.

Your board of directors and staff support policies and projects that are good for the communities we serve because what's good for the community is good for the cooperative. We're also a not-for-profit so any funds left over after the bills have been paid, infrastructure has been built, and financial obligations have been met are returned to you in the form of capital credits. If the board of directors determines the cooperative is in good financial shape, this capital is returned to you, either as a check or bill credit.

While many North Carolina electricity consumers just pay power bills to their local electricity provider, we like to think that you see real benefit through membership in your cooperative. We strive to try to keep your bill as low as possible and at the same time provide the highest quality service possible. When it comes to Piedmont Electric, community comes first, and that is the cooperative difference.



OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH!

Make sure to punch out your Co-op Connections® Card from this month's cover wrap, to save your family money at national and local businesses and health care providers. Turn to page 22 to see this month's featured discounts!

OCTOBER

This month is our one year anniversary of the Co-op Connections® Card!

Keep a look out for a listing of local and national deals included in your October bill.

**OCT
23**

Piedmont Electric Celebrates Co-op Day!

Come by and learn about your co-op! Spin a wheel for a chance to win a prize.

**NOV
1-3**

The Last Energy Star Sales Tax Free Holiday!

Save on qualified Energy Star appliances.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Draft Proof Your Home

Keep autumn drafts out of your home by sealing cracks and gaps. Weather stripping around doors and windows works well when you can see daylight between the frame and the wall or floor. Use caulk to seal around the frames where you see gaps.

For more tips, visit TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com



R.G. Brecheisen
President & CEO of Piedmont Electric

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This October, join me in celebrating cooperatives across America for National Cooperative Month! I'm sure you're wondering: what are we really celebrating, what makes Piedmont Electric different, and why should that matter to me?

Piedmont Electric is a member-owned cooperative, meaning that every customer, as a member, is one of many owners of this co-op. Every year you elect other members to serve on our board of directors at our annual meeting in an effort to keep lights on safely and reliably, and to keep energy costs affordable for your community. That is a great thing about co-ops: the members determine the makeup of the board of directors through democratic election.

Here at Piedmont Electric, we constantly work to implement business practices that create high member satisfaction and improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. We do this partly through community

involvement. Your Co-op Connections® Card supports our community by supporting local businesses. The savings you realize from your card will most likely be put back into our economy, strengthening it further. We also offer scholarships for our younger members pursuing education at colleges, universities and technical schools, and grants to our teachers to help better educate our children.

Every customer, as a member, is one of the many owners of this co-op.

As we celebrate National Cooperative Month, I hope you can stop by a Piedmont Electric office on October 23 to help us celebrate! We want you to continue to stay involved as we build a better future together. That, as always, is the cooperative difference.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS

RECENTLY ADDED BUSINESSES



GARLAND TRUFFLES INC
Hillsborough, NC

10% OFF TREES AND TOUR OF FARM

SAVE 10%

SOUTHERN TREASURES AND ANTIQUES
Roxboro, NC
ON ENTIRE PURCHASE

FREE

MUNCHIES MEXICAN GRILL AND BAR
Carrboro, NC
FOR KIDS (10 & UNDER)
TUESDAYS & SUNDAYS
(ONE CHILD PER ADULT)



Piedmont Electric Members have saved a total of
\$14,112.08
in Rx purchases since the program launch
in October 2012!

Visit Piedmont Electric's website, www.pemc.coop, and click on the Co-op Connections® Card for discount details and a complete list of participating local businesses, national businesses, dentists, chiropractors, vision care and pharmacies. Don't see your favorite business here? Tell them to contact us at 800.222.3107 or pemcinfo@pemc.coop, subject "Co-op Connections," to become a part of this exciting new member program!

WHAT IS "RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITY"?



Right-of-Way procedures ensure safe and reliable electric service.

If you read your Piedmont Electric *Connection* newsletter in *Carolina Country* regularly, you will notice that each month, there is a notification of the Right-of-Way activity scheduled to take place in various locations around our service area, but what does our Right-of-Way (ROW) program actually accomplish?

Right-of-Way clearing involves the trimming of trees and other foliage in power line right-of-ways, so the lines are easier to work on in the future. This usually means trimming the trees back to Piedmont Electric's 30 foot easement. We understand that our members may not always want to have their trees trimmed or cut, but proper maintenance of vegetation is an important part of providing safe, reliable service.

One way that Piedmont Electric maintains high reliability is through our three year ROW clearing rotation. Trimming more frequently helps us reduce the risk of damage to our lines caused by falling trees and branches, and helps us provide more reliable service. Trimming every three years also saves money – the longer the trees grow, the more costly it is to cut them back.

You can always find this month's ROW activity areas in Piedmont's *Connection* newsletter, or learn more at www.pemc.coop.

FALL INTO ENERGY SAVINGS

Here are a few quick tips on how to save energy and money this fall season

- The air inside your house tends to be drier during the fall and winter. Efficient humidifiers are a good investment for energy conservation.
- Keep the overhead door of an attached garage closed to block cold winds from coming through the connecting door between the house and garage.
- Close fireplace doors when not in use to decrease air infiltration and heat loss.
- During the day, open shades and curtains to allow solar heating. Close them at night to retain the day's heat.
- The thermostat should be set no higher than 68 degrees and be sure to lower the temperature when you go to bed or are not home. Studies have shown that we sleep better in a cool house.
- Clean furnace filters once a month to keep the system at peak performance.
- Turn water heater down to 120°F to save money on your energy bill.

BY THE NUMBERS

2,173 MEMBERS

have signed up for the use-monitoring portion of www.MyUsage.com

884 MEMBERS

are participating in the FlexPay Program

501 MEMBERS ↑ 3 MEMBERS

have turned in receipts for 4,644 CFLs, representing a total of 1,592,892 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate

41 MEMBERS

received solar water heater rebates

916 MEMBERS

purchased electric water heater wrap kits

599 RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS ↑ 8 MEMBERS

have signed up for Time-of-Day Rates

983 VISITS ↑ 6 VISITS

made to TogetherWeSave.com, where you can learn more about the power of your electric cooperative membership.

591 MEMBERS ↑ 48 MEMBERS

have signed up to participate in the "Beat the Peak" program

1,392 MEMBERS ↑ 31 MEMBERS

are participating in Project Helping Hand

6,076 MEMBERS ↑ 22 MEMBERS

are participating in the A/C Load Control Program

4,664 MEMBERS

are participating in the Electric Water Heater Load Control Program

THIS MONTH'S RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITY

DURHAM COUNTY

- Raugemant Road
- Hopkins Road
- Red Mountain Road

PERSON COUNTY

- Bowen Road

(and surrounding areas)

Locations are SUBJECT TO CHANGE due to uncontrollable circumstances.

BE PREPARED FOR SEVERE WEATHER

Severe weather can happen at any time, often with very little notice. Preparing for the possibility of a storm-related power outage will keep you and your family safe.



THINK AHEAD

If someone in your home depends on electricity, be sure to have a relocation plan in place before the storm in case power cannot be restored for an extended period.



EMERGENCY KITS

Prepare an emergency kit before the storm. A kit should include three days of food, a gallon of water per person, per day, flashlights, a radio, batteries, a can opener and garbage bags.



KEEP THE DOOR CLOSED

Avoid opening your refrigerator and freezer when the power goes out. Food will keep much longer without power in the sealed environment of your refrigerator or freezer.



ASSUME ALL POWER LINES ARE LIVE

Stay away from downed power lines at all times. For your safety, you should always assume that all downed power lines are energized.



STAY IN YOUR CAR

If you find yourself in a car with downed power lines around you, **STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE** and wait for first responders to help you get out safely. Your car may conduct electricity from the lines to your body if you ground your feet. If you absolutely must escape, jump directly out of the car and land on both feet. NO part of your body should be touching the car when your feet hit the ground.

CAPITAL CREDITS TO BE RETURNED IN DECEMBER

Piedmont Electric's Board of Directors have approved a General Retirement of Capital Credits for 1985 patronage, which will be distributed to members in December 2013.

In December, capital credits will be returned to member-owners who received service from Piedmont Electric in 1985. Those whose margins are \$20 or greater will receive a check, while those whose margins are less than \$20 will receive credits on their December bills.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.

2500 NC Highway 86 South
PO Drawer 1179
Hillsborough, NC 27278

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President and CEO

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**WHERE IN
CAROLINA COUNTRY
IS THIS?**

This is a Carolina Country scene in Touchstone Energy territory. If you know where it is, send your answer by Oct. 7 with your name, address and the name of your electric cooperative.

Online: carolinacountry.com

By e-mail: where@carolinacountry.com

Or by mail: Where in Carolina Country?
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611

Multiple entries from the same person will be disqualified.

The winner, chosen at random and announced in our November issue, will receive \$25. To see the answer before you get your October magazine, go to "Where Is This?" on our website carolinacountry.com



September winner

More than 250 of you recognized the September magazine's photo of the former Gilley store on Hwy. 88 in the Clifton area of Ashe County west of Warrensville. Johnny Fermanides of Cumberland County (South River EMC) took the photo during a visit he and his wife made to friends in the Creston area. It is now part of Log Cabin Motors. Willa Dean Sapp Harris of Thurmond (Surry Yadkin EMC), told us Clint and Eula Gilley ran this store for years, then their son C.E. Gilley and wife Reba took it over. Mrs. Harris said, "I remember Clint's wife helped me save bottle caps to win a doll." Edwina May of Boone said "My Mom bought a skirt here for \$12 in the 1950s that she earned by picking beans all day." The winning entry, chosen at random from all correct submissions, was from Tammy Hardin of Creston, a member of Blue Ridge Electric.

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\$100 OFF

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Not valid with any other offers

Offer expires 10/31/13



Getting To Know... Charlie Rose

Known For: Television journalist and talk show host

About Born in 1942, Charles Peete "Charlie" Rose Jr. was an only child born to tobacco farmers in Henderson. His parents also ran a country store, and Rose worked there from age 7. A high school basketball star at Henderson High, he earned degrees in history and law from Duke University and then took graduate-level business classes. He worked for Bankers Trust in New York City but found his true calling when he accepted a TV weekend reporting job. Since that fateful choice, the hardworking newsman has received numerous journalism awards and honorary degrees. He co-anchors "CBS This

Morning," is a contributing correspondent to "60 Minutes," and anchors "Charlie Rose," an iconic nightly interview program that he began producing in 1991. Inquisitive and affable, Rose is a master conversationalist who believes in smart television. The well-connected Rose has interviewed a wide range of influential people, ranging from actress Amy Poehler and rapper Kanye West to Bill Gates and President Barack Obama.

Quote: "I get up every morning with a new adventure."



Do you know...

that Albemarle Sound, located in northeastern North Carolina, is the largest freshwater sound in the U.S.? It's separated from the Atlantic Ocean by the Outer Banks' barrier islands, and catches Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan and Roanoke rivers as well as smaller rivers, creeks and swamps. Algonquian Indians first populated the area. In 1586, the first European adventurers came up the sound's 55-mile length and, some 50 years later, folks came south from Virginia and established settlements. The Albemarle Sound became an important thoroughfare, with small trading ships carrying freight to and from other colonies and larger merchant schooners bringing spices, silks and sugars from the West Indies in exchange for products such as tobacco, herring and lumber. Albemarle Sound has long supported a commercial fishing industry and is known for its excellent striped bass (also known as rockfish) fishing grounds. The region's towns include Edenton, Hertford, Columbia and Elizabeth City, each with its own charms. For more, visit albemarle-nc.com.

tar heel lessons

a guide to NC for teachers and students

New aquarium in Greensboro

North Carolina's first inland aquarium is now open at the Greensboro Science Center. The 22,000 square-foot Carolina SciQuarium features exhibits with African penguins, fishing cats, Asian small-clawed otters, a stingray touch tank and a 100,000-gallon Shark Reef filled with three species of sharks, southern stingrays, moray eels and hundreds of fish of every shape, size and color. Visitors learn about the animals, their habitats and aquatic veterinary care at hi-tech "SciPods" throughout the complex. The Greensboro Science Center offers an accredited aquarium, zoo and science museum all in one destination. It's open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and is wheelchair accessible. (336) 288-3769 or www.greensboroscience.org.



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Remember...



My cousin Gail and me with our "stolen" kittens. Gail often reminds me that I called attention to the hole she had in her panties. If you look closely, you can see it in the picture.

The stolen kittens

I grew up on a dairy farm in the small town of Denver, Lincoln County. Like most small towns in the late 1940s and the 1950s, there wasn't a lot to do outside of what we did on the farm. Everything we did, we pretty much made an adventure.

One of our favorite things away from the farm was a trip to one of the nearby country stores, Shug Killian's or Keistler's store. You could find just about anything you needed there—clothes, shoes, bathing suits, household items, candy and bubble gum. My cousin Gail recalls a memorable trip we made to Keistler's store when we were quite young. We grew tired of waiting for our mothers to finish shopping and wandered outside to a building where, lo and behold, we found a litter of kittens. We each helped ourselves to one and got in the car without mentioning it to our mothers.

We were on our way home when the kittens started meowing. Mom turned around and headed back to the store to make us return the kittens and apologize to Mr. Keistler. Turns out he didn't mind us taking the kittens after all, as you can see from the picture.

Sandra Sherrill Auton, Lincolnton, Rutherford EMC

Fishing with the alligator

My father and his brother shared a vacation home in Holden Beach and my mother's parents retired there, so I spent many summers with my grandparents. My grandmother's home was in the vicinity of where Food Lion is now. There was, and still is, a small pond just up from where she lived. She and I both loved to fish either in the pond, the Intracoastal Waterway or at the pier. The pond also was the home of a alligator that never bothered anyone.

One late summer afternoon we walked up to the pond to try our luck with fishing rods, bait, bucket (for all the fish we would catch) and chairs in tow. We baited up, threw our lines in the water and waited patiently for a bite.

The alligator was on the opposite end of the pond, so we didn't worry, until we saw him slither into the water. My grandmother assured me he was probably hot and getting in the water to "cool off." He started to slowly swim in our direction. My grandmother re-assured me that he would not bother us and to ignore him. He got closer and closer, and we froze as he came to the shore right in front of us.

About that time, he opened his very large mouth and let out this hiss that scared my grandmother (and me) so bad that she dropped everything and yelled "run!" I turned to look at her, and she was already well on her way in a sprint that I had never seen her attempt before. I remember yelling, "wait, wait!" She never slowed down. After we caught our breath, we laughed and laughed.

My husband and I now have a vacation home at Holden Beach and pass by this pond often visiting friends. I think of this story every time we pass by and have shared it with our children who always look to see if the alligator is back.

Dena Misenheimer, Rockwell, Brunswick EMC

A farmhand named Joe

Joe came into my family's life in late October 1953 when he and his parents moved to our farm as sharecroppers. They moved by mule and wagon. This threesome sharecropper family lived a simple Amish type life, working the farm with two mules, planting and harvesting with joy.

Joe's parents drove a horse and buggy two miles into town every Saturday while Joe rode a magnificent bike. His was the first bicycle around Fair Bluff with hand gears and hand brakes, much fancier than my little red bike. Joe assembled my little red bike. He could assemble anything without reading the instructions.

Joe couldn't read, but he didn't need to. He reminded me of "Hoss" Cartwright from "Bonanza." He was a tower of strength dressed in blue denim overalls, big as an ox, strong as a mule, but gentle as a lamb. His bare feet on the unbroken ground was the first sign of spring, as he collared his mule to the plow and plowed each field to be furrowed.

I loved ol' Joe and miss him. The scent of the good earth still carries the spirit of Joe. Thanks, ol' Joe, for all that you were for me.

F. Ray Thigpen, M.D., Whiteville, Brunswick EMC

SEND US YOUR Memories

We'll pay \$50 for those we publish in the magazine. We can put even more on our Internet sites, but can't pay for them. (If you don't want them on the Internet, let us know.)

Guidelines:

1. Approximately 200 words.
2. Digital photos must be at least 600kb or 1200 by 800 pixels.
3. No deadline, but only one entry per household per month.
4. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want yours returned.
5. We pay \$50 for each one published in the magazine. We retain reprint rights.
6. Include your name, mailing address and the name of your electric cooperative.
7. E-mail: iremember@carolinacountry.com
Or by U.S. mail: I Remember, Carolina Country,
3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616

Just me and the chicken

Growing up in Gaston County in the early 1960s wasn't easy because we were very poor. I was raised by my grandmother and grandfather. Somehow my grandmother would save up enough money to take us all to Myrtle Beach.

We would take everything we needed to eat. We'd pop a big bag of popcorn. My grandmother would fry a bunch of chicken. She would put a portion of the chicken in an old shoebox. We rode an old Trailways bus to Myrtle Beach. All of us couldn't sit together. It was my job to look after the shoebox chicken resting on the seat beside me. The bus stopped in a little town in South Carolina, and a woman got on the bus. She asked me if anyone was sitting with me, and I said no, only me and the chicken. The woman looked at me kind of strange and moved to another seat.

The room we rented was across the street from the Gay Dolphin Park. The motel was called Shallow Cove. It was \$6 a night, and it was the best trip I ever took.

Donald Beam, Lincolnton, Rutherford EMC



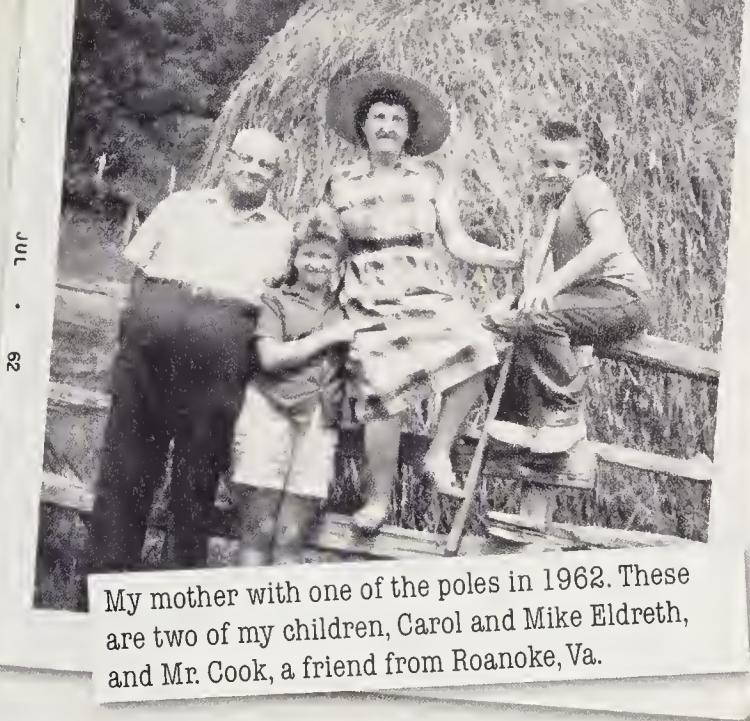
All-weekend meetings

This is the "old church" on Laurel Springs Church Road in Mt. Airy. It was built in 1908. Inside, a portrait of William B. Southern hangs beside the pulpit. It states that he was the founder and builder of the First Church of Laurel Springs. He was born March 4, 1836, and he died June 20, 1915.

The Primitive Baptist Association Meetings were held here once a year up until 1997. Five different churches and up to 10 different preachers from all over came for these all-day, all-weekend meetings. My aunt, Lucille Oakley, remembers these meetings and tells of how wonderful they were with all the singing, preaching and fellowship.

This church holds many memories for the surrounding community. My church, Laurel Springs Baptist Church, is right next door, and we are making new memories in it. We still hold our special services in this church, including our annual "Old Fashion Day" and Christmas play. We want to keep the memories alive and honor those who have worked so hard for the community to have a place of worship.

Sonya Boyd, Dobson, Surry-Yadkin EMC



My mother with one of the poles in 1962. These are two of my children, Carol and Mike Eldreth, and Mr. Cook, a friend from Roanoke, Va.

Haying with our mother

In the 1950s and 1960s we worked in the fields without modern equipment and tractors. We put up hay, raking it by hand into rows and then into "shocks." We used two long poles that we put under the shocks. With me in front and my brother in back, we carried the shocks to where it was to be stacked.

My mother had to get up onto the stack, going from side to side, working until all the hay was on the stack several feet high. When she finished, we put the long poles up the stack so she could slide down.

Ilene Eldreth, Lansing, Blue Ridge Electric

Life as we knew it

Days were fun when we were young. After chores, we roamed the woods, went to our favorite "tractor lane" and the creek where the only danger was a snake. God kept us safe.

My sister Marilyn and I climbed trees. My sister Kathy and brother Ken with cousins Gail and Phyllis built a fort. We played kickball, dodge ball, jump rope, Barbies and tea parties. We ate and enjoyed what Mama cooked, never expected choices, and were happy to get hand-me-down clothes from cousins.

We slept with open windows and box fans, could walk to our Grandma and Grandpa Oakley's, and nothing tasted as good as what Grandma fixed from their garden. I loved to watch Grandpa milk the cow and whittle. They read their Bibles and listened to "Gunsmoke" on the radio.

At Christmas we went with Daddy to cut and drag a tree home, usually in the snow. Daddy raised hogs and I kept a runt for a pet. Mama taught me how to kill and cut up a chicken and to cook. Sundays was church, home-cooked lunch and visiting Grandma and Grandpa Myers with nine uncles, eight aunts and 21 cousins.

We worked and played hard, and got good food, sunshine, exercise, fresh air, a good night's sleep and were taught about God. We were happy knowing we were loved. Childhood passes us all too quickly. Our world today might be better if children could experience life as we knew it.

Helen Myers Benton, Lexington, EnergyUnited

DETECTION

	S	H	E	L	B	Y
9						
8						X
7						X
6						
5						
4						
3						X
2	X					X
1	X					
0	X					

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} S & H & E & L & B & Y \\ _ & + & _ & + & _ & + & _ & = & _ & _ \end{array}$$

Given these simultaneous equations, can you find the value of this SQUARE?

$$(SH)^2 = ELBY$$

The square of the two digit number SH equals the four digit number ELBY.

$$\begin{array}{l} H-S=L \quad Y-L=H \quad Y-B=S \\ H-E=B \quad L+L=B \end{array}$$

Use the grid to eliminate impossibilities, i.e. two-digit numbers higher than 31 have four-digit squares.

M	A	T	C	H
B	O	X	E	S

1	2	0	2	9	4	0
T	C	R	C	A	E	R

X 6
B

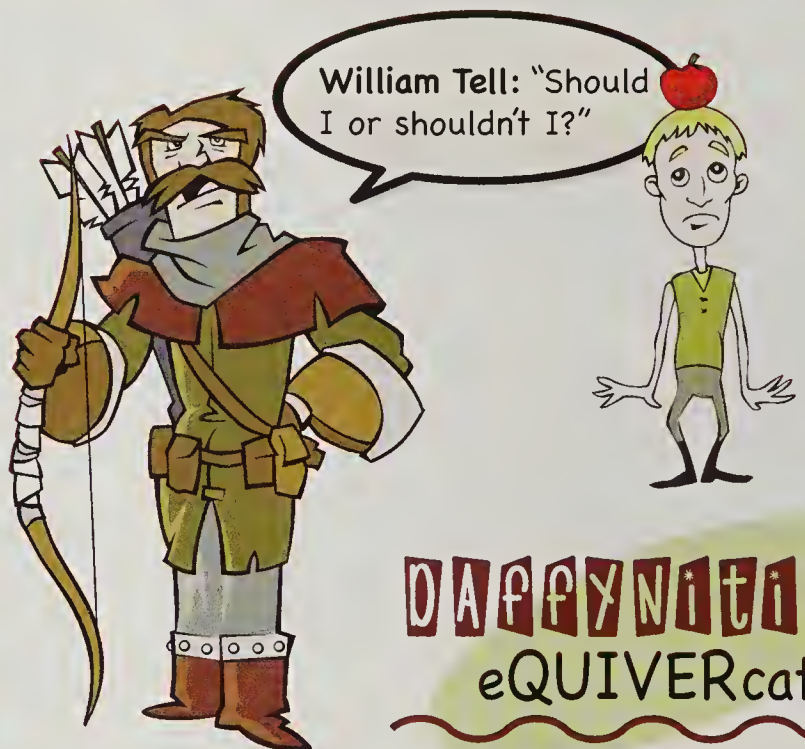
○ ○

Solve this multiplication problem and write your answer in the boxtops, one digit to each box. Then match boxes to find a hidden word.

Vowel Play

Can you place consonants in the blanks below to spell a word?

_ A _ _ E _ O _ I U _



DAFFYNITION:
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UNSCRAMBLIT

Cy Nical Says

Some people pay their bills when $\frac{_}{s} \frac{_}{i} \frac{_}{o}$, some

when $\frac{_}{v} \frac{_}{t} \frac{_}{o} \frac{_}{e} \frac{_}{s} \frac{_}{i} \frac{_}{o}$ and some $\frac{_}{l} \frac{_}{o} \frac{_}{t} \frac{_}{o} \frac{_}{e} \frac{_}{s} \frac{_}{v}$

Use the capital letters in the code key below to fill in the blanks above.

D E N O R U V means
s o l v e i t

For answers, please see page 33



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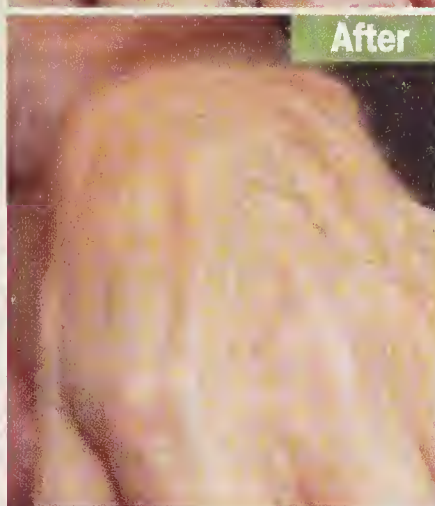


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The Great Pumpkin!

Want to enjoy your Great Pumpkin well past Halloween? For proper preservation, a pumpkin must be relatively unblemished, meaning no knife cuts or soft spots. Also, it will last longer with 2 to 3 inches of stem still attached.

Before storing your pumpkin, wipe off any dirt with a dry cloth. Check on it occasionally and, if any mold appears, clean it with a cloth that has a dab of vegetable oil on it. A minor case of mold on the skin won't harm the inside of the pumpkin—just don't let it get out of hand. Mold can not only spread over the outer rind, but it can penetrate into the pumpkin, if not stopped.

For better storage, a pumpkin's outer skin needs to be toughened up, and this curing process can be easily done if the jack-o'-lantern is used as a Halloween decoration in a dry area not in direct sunlight.

If your pumpkin is not going to automatically transform into a Thanksgiving season decoration, put it in a cool place after Halloween. Basements are ideal because they are constantly cool and, as a bonus, usually a little on the humid side. Humidity, in moderate amounts, helps to reduce shrinkage. A garage or closet could also work.

Don't store the pumpkin directly on a concrete floor, as the chilly cement could damage the rind. Tuck it away on a shelf, cushioned in a bed of straw or clean rags, if possible.

A suitably stored pumpkin will usually last two to three months, meaning



that this Halloween leftover can easily be reincarnated into fresh pumpkin pies for the Thanksgiving or even Christmas dessert table!

Garden To Do's

October

- ▶ Tomato plants still producing? If you have green tomatoes remaining on the vine as the first frosts approach, pick them off, wrap each individually in a half sheet of newspaper and store in a cool, dry area. These tucked-away tomatoes will then slowly ripen in storage, so check on them occasionally.
- ▶ Plant flower seeds in the fall? Sure, especially if they are hardy annuals and biennials such as bells of Ireland, cornflower, foxglove, Johnny jump-ups, larkspur, pink poppy, snapdragons, sweet peas, sweet alyssum and Virginia stock that actually need the cold of winter to properly develop in time for next spring.
- ▶ Thinking about planting spring-flowering bulbs? Think big. Think like Texans do, because when it comes to such bulbs, for maximum potential in performance, the bigger their size, the better their springtime flower show.

- ▶ Migrating friendly flyers will appreciate it if you keep the bird feeder well stocked and the bird bath filled with fresh water.

November

- ▶ If you have been battling rust on your hollyhocks, clip off all the old stems now and discard them to help prevent the disease from overwintering and causing problems again next year.
- ▶ Plant tulip bulbs deep outdoors--the bases should be at least 6 to 7 inches in ground. This ensures not only a constant cold that is essential for these bulbs, but it will make it harder for voles and squirrels to find them.
- ▶ The beginning of the month is the time to plant paperwhite narcissus bulbs in pots in order to have them ready as blooming presents by this Christmas.
- ▶ Nesting season is over, so clean bird houses of old nests and any other debris. 🐣

Tip of the Month

Still cursing at those useless, spiny gum balls in your yard that you have stepped on barefooted or dodged after they shot out from under your lawnmower? Now is a good time to make use of the "useless" from sweetgum trees. Gather up some gum balls and spray paint each either yellow, orange or even black. Then, incorporate them as unexpected interest to dried Halloween and Thanksgiving arrangements. Also, metallic green, red, silver or gold paints will put a Yuletide season shine on gum balls to make them pretty enough for decorating garlands, wreaths or even this year's Christmas tree.

L.A. Jackson is the former editor of Carolina Gardener Magazine. If you would like to ask him a question about your garden, contact L.A. at: lajackson1@gmail.com.

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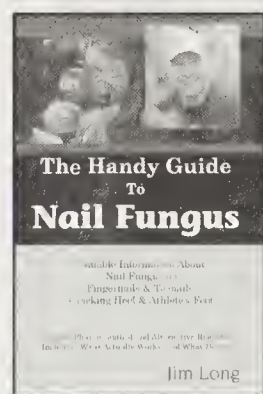
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Mountains (west of I-77)

Victory Classic Golf Tournament

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Oct. 4, Lenoir
(828) 754-6262
robinsnestcac.org

Art Walk

Oct. 4, Murphy
(828) 837-7322

Gem & Mineral Show

Oct. 4, Dallas
(980) 522-6138
gastongemshow.weebly.com

Oktoberfest

Oct. 4-5, Maggie Valley
(828) 734-8075
maggievalleyoktoberfest.com

Creatures Of The Night & Bonfire Delight

Oct. 5, Linville
(828) 733-2013
grandfather.com

Art In The Park

Oct. 5, Blowing Rock
(828) 295-7851
blowingrock.com/artinthepark

Autumn At Oz

Oct. 5-6, Beech Mountain
(800) 468-5506
autumnatoz.com

Folk School Fall Festival

Oct. 5-6, Brasstown
(828) 837-2775
folkschool.org

Gallery Crawl

Oct. 11, West Jefferson
(336) 846-2787
ashcountyyarts.org

Oktoberfest

Oct. 11-13, Hickory
(828) 322-1121
hickoryoktoberfest.com

Heritage Festival

Oct. 12, Boone
(828) 264-2120
booneheritagefestival.com

Festival Of The Frescoes

Oct. 12, Glendale Springs
(336) 982-3076

Chili Cook-Off

Oct. 12, Cherokee County
(828) 837-2242

Molasses Festival

Oct. 12, Granite Falls
(828) 396-5811
facebook.com/simscountrybbq

Wine & Art Festival

Oct. 12, Lincolnton
(704) 736-8915
llwineweekend.org

Si Kahn & The Looping Brothers

Oct. 12, West Jefferson
(336) 846-2787
ashcountyyarts.org

Fall Leaves Arts & Crafts Show

Oct. 12-13 & 19-20, Lake Junaluska
(828) 648-0500
bracaorg.com

Corks & Taps For Hospice

Oct. 17, Shelby
(704) 487-4677
hospicecares.cc

Lake Eden Arts Festival

Oct. 17-20, Black Mountain
(828) 686-8742
theleaf.org

Fall Art Show

Oct. 19, Hayesville
(828) 389-3045
cccra.net

Country Fair

Oct. 19, Valle Crucis
(828) 963-4609
vallecountryfair.org

Cherokee Heritage Festival

Oct. 19, Hayesville
(828) 389-3045
cccra.net

Western Piedmont Symphony

Oct. 19, West Jefferson
(336) 846-2787
ashcountyyarts.org

Apple Festival

Oct. 19, Taylorsville
(828) 632-2999
alexandercountyonline.com/applefestival

Woodcarving Competition

Oct. 19, Hickory
(818) 612-4716

Halloween Festival

Oct. 26, Blowing Rock
(828) 295-5222
blowingrock.com

Beary Scary Halloween

Oct. 26, Linville
(828) 733-2013
grandfather.com

Annual Pumpkin Chunkin

Oct. 26-27, Brasstown
(828) 329-3704
ncmtncchamber.com

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historichendersonville.org



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For Jan.: Nov. 25

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(828) 963-3546
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(828) 724-4948
historiccarsonhouse.com

Bluegrass Music Jam

Thursdays, Marion
(828) 652-2215

Art Crawl

First Fridays, Boone
(828) 262-4532
downtownboonenc.com

Concerts At The Creek

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mountainlovers.com

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hotnightshotcars.com

Hickory Ridge Living History Museum

Through Oct. 26, Boone
(828) 264-2120
hickoryridgemuseum.com

Live Bluegrass Music

Fridays, Union Mills
(828) 748-7956
unionmillslearningcenter.org

Ghost Train Halloween Train

Through Nov. 2, Blowing Rock
(919) 277-1176
tweetsie.com

The Colors Of Grandfather

Guided walks
Oct. 5–20, Linville
(828) 733-2013
grandfather.com

Piedmont (between I-77 & I-95)**Earth, Wind & Fire Tour**

Oct. 1, Fayetteville
(910) 323-1991
community-concerts.com

Truman's Mystical Magical Adventure

Oct. 4, Fayetteville
(910) 438-4100
atthecrown.com

Oldies, Rock & Blues Music

Oct. 4 & 18, Hope Mills
(910) 426-4109
visitfayettevillenc.com

Splash Of Color Quilt Show

Oct. 4–5, Concord
(704) 795-2734
cabarrusquiltersguild.org

Bull Riding

Soldier Foundation Invitational
Oct. 4–5, Fayetteville
(910) 438-4100
atthecrown.com

Starworks Pumpkin Patch

Hand-blown glass pumpkins
Oct. 5, Star
(910) 428-9001
starworksnc.org

Ray Vega & Heart of Carolina Jazz Orchestra

Oct. 5, Sanford
(919) 774-4155
templeshow.com

World Hunger Day

Oct. 5, Huntersville
(704) 875-6581
fbc-h.org

Fall Farm Festival

Oct. 5, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
lattaplantation.org

Holy Smoke

BBQ & Music Festival
Oct. 5, Rockingham
(910) 895-4027

Singles Party & Dance

Oct. 5, Cornelius
(704) 500-9305

Country Fest

Oct. 5–6, Stanley
(704) 263-4779

Kiln Opening & Turkey Roast

Oct. 5–6, Seagrove
(910) 464-6228
fromthegrounduppots.com

Heritage Festival

Oct. 6, Fayetteville
(910) 486-0221
capefearbg.org

The Music Of John Williams

Oct. 10, Fayetteville
(877) 627-6724
ncsymphony.org

Scot Bruce

Multifaceted musician & actor
Oct. 11, Rocky Mount
(252) 985-5197
dunncenter.com

Ghost Tales In The Dark

Oct. 11–12 & 18–19, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
lattaplantation.org

Cotton Ginning Days

Oct. 11–13, Dallas
(704) 922-2160
cottonginningdays.com

Autumn Fest

Oct. 12, Mebane
(919) 563-2767
downtownmebane.com

Norman Fest

Oct. 12, Norman
(910) 652-1050

Old Fashion Day

Oct. 12, Goldston
(919) 898-4937

Bi-annual Flea Market

Oct. 12–13, Carthage
(910) 528-4312
thepeddlersfealmarket.com

John Blue Cotton Festival

Oct. 12–13, Laurinburg
(910) 276-2495
johnbluecottonfestival.com

Symphonic Band

Oct. 17, Fayetteville
(910) 630-7602
methodist.edu

The Bronx Wanderers

Doo-Wop, Rock & Roll
Oct. 18, Rocky Mount
(252) 985-5197
dunncenter.com

Fall Concert Series

Oct. 18, Fayetteville
(910) 486-0221
capefearbg.org

Harvest of Quilts Show

Oct. 18–19, Sanford
(919) 498-2397
heartsandhandsnc.org

Quilted Treasures

Oct. 18–19, Lincolnton
(704) 240-9693

East Coast Drag Times Hall of Fame

Oct. 18–20, Henderson
(866) 438-4565
kerrlake-nc.com

Halloween Revels

Oct. 18–26, Fayetteville
(910) 486-1330
museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

Tabernacle Carnival

Oct. 19, Asheboro
(336) 629-3533
randolph.k12.nc.us/schools/tabernacle

All Hallow's Eve

Oct. 19, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
lattaplantation.org

Ole Mill Days

Oct. 19, Hope Mills
(910) 423-4314
hopemillschamber.org

The Grascals

Nashville based bluegrass band
Oct. 19, Troy
(704) 985-6987
bluegrassintroy.com

Cool Cars & Rods Cruise In

Oct. 19, Mount Airy
(336) 786-4511
mountairydowntown.org

Randolph Ramble

Oct. 19–20, Asheboro
(336) 465-6584
randolphartsguild.com

World War I Encampment

Oct. 19–20, Dunn
(910) 891-5019
averasboro.com

Entertaining In The Garden

Amy Stewart & James T. Farmer III
Oct. 24, Charlotte
(704) 331-0664
winghavengardens.com

4th Friday

Oct. 25, Fayetteville
(910) 323-1776
theartscouncil.com/fourthmain.php

Life Through Poetry & Song

Oct. 25, Fayetteville
(910) 916-7524
singwithcos.org

Ghost Walk

Oct. 25–26, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
lattaplantation.org

Southern Stockhorse Show

Oct. 25–26, Lumberton
(843) 6493
southernstockhorse.com

Hoof-tober

Festival fundraiser
Oct. 25–26, Gastonia
(704) 862-0095
bitofhoperanch.org

Barbecue Festival

Oct. 26, Lexington
(336) 956-1880
barbecuefestival.com

Poe House Trick-or-treat

Oct. 26, Fayetteville
(910) 486-1330
museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

The Diamonds Concert

Oct. 26, Asheboro
(336) 629-4369

Symphonic Spooktacular Returns

Oct. 27, Fayetteville
(910) 433-4690
fayettevillesymphony.org

Hallow's Eve Cemetery Walk

Oct. 30, Fayetteville
(910) 323-1934
faydogwoodfestival.com

ONGOING**Maness Pottery & Music Barn**

Dinner, music, fellowship
Tuesday nights, Midway
(910) 948-4897
liveatclydes.com

Durham Civil War Roundtable

Third Thursdays, Durham
(919) 643-0466

Art After Hours

Second Fridays, Wake Forest
(919) 570-0765
sunflowerstudiowf.com

Betty Lynn (Thelma Lou)

At Andy Griffith Museum
Third Fridays, Mount Airy
(336) 786-7998
visitmayberry.com

Arts Councils' Fourth Friday

Fayetteville
(910) 483-5311
theartscouncil.org

Yadkin River Wine Trail Mini-Festivals

Through Oct. 6, Boonville
(336) 367-6000
yadkinriverwinetrail.com

Monty Python's Spamalot

Through Oct. 6, Hickory
(828) 328-2283
hickorytheatre.org

Surge Art

Through Oct. 6, Durham
(919) 797-2706
pleiadesartdurham.com

The Little Prince

Through Oct. 6, Fayetteville
(910) 323-4234
cfrrt.org

Rent—Rock Opera

Through Oct. 6, Fayetteville
(910) 678-7186
gilberttheater.com

Driven By The Heart

Art exhibition
Through Oct. 17, Fayetteville
(910) 630-7107
davidmccunegallery.org

Buck's Dynasty

Dinner theater production
Through Oct. 20, Fayetteville
(910) 488-7474
northwoodtemple.org

Foodwares Pottery

Through Oct. 26, Seagrove
(336) 873-8430
ncpotterycenter.com

A Victorian Halloween

Through Oct. 31, Fayetteville
(910) 486-1330
museumoftheacefear.ncdcr.gov

Granville County Museums

Rotating exhibits
Through Oct. 31, Oxford
(919) 693-9706
granvillemuseumnc.org

Centennial Exhibit

Terry Sanford High School
Through Nov. 30, Fayetteville
(910) 433-1457
fcpr.us/transportation_museum.aspx

The Photography Of Lewis Hine

"Exposing Child Labor in NC 1908-1918"
Through Dec. 5, Fayetteville
(910) 486-1330
museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

Bluegrass Music

Saturdays, Mt. Gilead
(910) 220-6426
mgmusicbarn.com

Mammal Safari

Through Dec. 31, Gastonia
(704) 866-6908
schielemuseum.org

Cumberland County Goes to War

Through Dec. 31, Fayetteville
(910) 433-1457
fcpr.us/transportation_museum.aspx

Task Force Ranger & The Battle of Mogadishu

Oct. 4-31, Fayetteville
(910) 643-2766
asomf.org

Meta-Crylic Vibration

High-energy art
Oct. 9-27, Durham
(919) 797-2706
pleiadesartdurham.com

Porsche by Design

Oct. 12-Jan. 20, Raleigh
(919) 664-6773
ncartmuseum.org

Codgerella

Oct. 25-Nov. 3, Albemarle
(704) 983-1020
uwharriplayers.org

Gallery Of Arts

Oct. 25-Nov. 10, Hillsborough
(919) 732-5001
hillsboroughgallery.com

Sweeny Todd (Musical)

Oct. 31-Nov. 17, Fayetteville
(919) 323-3423
Cfrrt.org/season.php

Coast (east of I-95)**Trek With A Ranger**

Oct. 1, Swansboro
(910) 326-2600

Agricultural Fair

Oct. 1-6, Greenville
(252) 758-6916
pitt.fair.org

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Guides LEAF
Local Economic and Adventure Foundation

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King Mackerel Tournament

Oct. 3–5, Southport
(910) 457-6964
usopenkmt.com

Parents Night Out

Oct. 4, Swansboro
(910) 326-2600

Cycle NC Fall Ride

Oct. 4, New Bern
(252) 637-9400

Arts On The Perquimans

Oct. 5, Hertford
(252) 426-3041
perquimansarts.org

Market Day

Oct. 5, Faison
(910) 267-2721
faisonnc.org

Peanut Festival & Battles Of The Bands

Oct. 5, Edenton
(252) 482-8426
visitedenton.com

International Fair

Oct. 5, Greenville
(252) 758-1504

Healthy Living Expo

Oct. 5, Greenville
(252) 413-0418
pcwomenjournal.com

Sunset At Sunset

Crafts, live music
Oct. 5, Sunset Beach
(910) 579-6297
sunsetatsunset.com

Community Yard Sale

Oct. 5, Swan Quarter
(252) 925-0087

S&D Gun & Knife Show

Oct. 5–6, Greenville
(252) 321-7671
ncgunshows.com

Seafood Festival

Oct. 5–7, Morehead City
(252) 726-6273
ncseafoodfestival.org

Carolina Bridal Show

Oct. 6, Greenville
(252) 830-8900

St. Brendan's Italian Festival

Oct. 12, Shallotte
(910) 754-8544
http://saintbrendan-shallotte.org

Scuppernong River Festival

Oct. 12, Columbia
(252) 796-2781
visittyrrellcounty.com

Alzheimer's Walk & Education Fair

Oct. 12, Washington
(252) 944-3446
alznc.org

Lobster Fair

Oct. 12, Greenville
(252) 355-2125
st.tim.org

Design Expo

Oct. 12, Greenville
(252) 558-2993
creativedreams.com

Mumfest

Oct. 12–13, New Bern
(252) 638-5781
mumfest.com

Mullet Festival

Oct. 12–13, Swansboro
(910) 326-7370
swansborofestivals.com

Jazz Festival

Oct. 13, Duck
(877) 629-4386
outerbanks.org

Agricultural Fair

Oct. 15–20, Whiteville
(910) 642-7585
columbuscountyfair.com

Woman's Club Bazaar

Oct. 17, Hope Mills
(910) 486-6112

Doc Severinsen & His Big Band

Oct. 17, Greenville
(800) 328-2787
ecu.edu/srapas

The Mousetrap

Oct. 17–20, Farmville
(252) 753-3832
farmvillearts.org

Moors & McCumber In Concert

Oct. 18, New Bern
(252) 646-4657
downeastfolkarts.org

Chili Festival

Oct. 18–19, Havelock
(252) 447-1101
chilifestival.org

Outer Banks Seafood Festival

Oct. 18–19, Nags Head
(877) 629-4386
outerbanks.org

Waccamaw Siouan Pow Wow

Oct. 18–19, Bolton
(910) 655-8778
waccamaw-siouan.com

Humane Society Live Auction

Oct. 19, Washington
(252) 946-1591

Dismal Day

Wagon, boat rides, scavenger hunt
Oct. 19, South Mills
(252) 771-8333
dismalswampwelcomecenter.com

Old School Sorghum Festival

Oct. 19, McDaniel Crossroad,
Sampson County
(910) 564-5069



On October 11–12 and 18–19, take a candlelit tour of Latta Plantation in Huntersville and hear ghost stories from staff and volunteers. Tours are at 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m., and 10 p.m. each night. Pre-registration is required; cost is \$15 per person. Call (704) 875-2312 or visit lattaplantation.org

Wings Over Edenton

Oct. 19, Edenton
(252) 482-4664
visitedenton.com

Wings Over Water Festival

Oct. 22–27, Outer Banks
(252) 216-9464
wingsoverwater.org

The Real Haunted Housewives

Visit 18 ghost sites
Oct. 24–26, New Bern
(252) 638-8558
newbernhistorical.org

Albemarle Craftsman's Fair

Oct. 25–27, Elizabeth City
(252) 562-5441
albemarlecraftsmansfair.com

Really Chili Challenge

Oct. 26, Goldsboro
(919) 731-3939
communitysoupkitchen.org

Yam Festival

Oct. 26, Tabor City
(910) 234-1732
ncyamfestival.com

Mattie Arts Center Festival

Oct. 26, Swan Quarter
(252) 943-8991
hyde1854courthouse.org

ONGOING**Art Walk**

First Friday, Elizabeth City
(252) 335-5330
<http://ecncart.com>

Art Walk

First Friday, Greenville
(252) 329-4200
uptowngreenville.com

Queen Anne's Revenge Exhibit

Through Oct. 19, Edenton
(252) 482-0300

Making Of Gone With The Wind

Movie costumes, props, memorabilia
Through Dec., Elizabeth City
(252) 335-1453
museumofthealbemarle.com

Dead Wood Western Theme Park

Through Dec., Williamston
(252) 792-8516
visitmartincounty.com

Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr.

Oct. 11–20, New Bern
(252) 633-3318
rivertowneplayers.com

Freeboot Fridays

Through Nov. 15, Greenville
(252) 561-8400
uptowngreenville.com



CAROLINA COUNTRY adventures

Day Trip

Camden County: "New Energy-New Vision"

Nature never quite surrendered in Camden County. Over hundreds of years, men cut into the wooded wilderness, dug out its wetlands and waterways, and pulled out of the land whatever they could, but the natural wonders won. Now, Camden County embraces its natural character. You can see the pride on Saturday, Oct. 19.

They call it Dismal Day, but last year's inaugural event was anything but dismal. It happens Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center, on Hwy. 17 just south of the Virginia line and up the canal from South Mills. The event shines on the area's history (a lighter boat like those that carried shingles from the swamps, a moonshine still like those that worked in those swamps, logging stories, stories of slaves who dug this canal and others who hid here) and on humans abiding with nature (recreational boats, farm products, nature-based crafts). People will be on a 5K walk/run along the new (2005) trail that runs along the canal, riding boats and wagons, following a scavenger hunt, trying the bounce house, and enjoying Brunswick stew, seafood and barbecue.

Fall, winter and spring are high times here. The 14,400-acre Dismal Swamp State Park (it borders the 111,000-acre Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge) hosts a large population of black bears and bobcats, and a very accessible 16.7 miles of hiking and mountain bike trails that lead to an abundance of birds and woodland life of all kinds.

The Dismal Canal is part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. Some 1,500 boats stop at the unique waterway-highway Welcome Center, mostly in fall and spring. As the oldest continuously operated man-made canal in the U.S., its colorful history began in the 1720s when men realized its potential for moving timber products from here. Slaves dug it by hand beginning in the 1790s, and it opened, including two sets of locks, in 1805 to boats that were poled and towed from paths on its banks. The famous Halfway House hotel just south of the state line attracted all kinds of romantics and renegades during the 1820s. The Union Army in April 1862 sent some 3,000 troops to blow up the canal's locks at South Mills, but about 750 Confederate defenders held them off until they succumbed to the heat and swamp bugs.



The historic Dismal Swamp Canal in its autumn splendor.

Camden County today is proud of its peace and quiet, but boasts of its achievements and possibilities. Its fields produce corn, soybeans, cotton, rapeseed and lots of white potatoes. Paddling here is true adventure. North River Campground is a big tenting and RV destination (hosting Seafood Fest Oct. 11–12). Its schools have long had a superior reputation, and many who work in south-east Virginia prefer to live here. Emerging near the state line along Hwy. 17 is a 300-acre Camden County Eco-Complex, destined to be a campus of mixed use businesses focused on environmental research and industry.

"We may be small," says county commission chairman Gary Meiggs, "but our sense of caring is big. Growing up here, everyone knew where you were, and when you got home. The people are devoted. What we do here, we do really well."

—Michael E.C. Gery

Contact information:

"Dismal Day," "Paddle for the Border" (May 3), Canal Trail and general visitor information: Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center, (877) 771-8333, dismalswampwelcomecenter.com

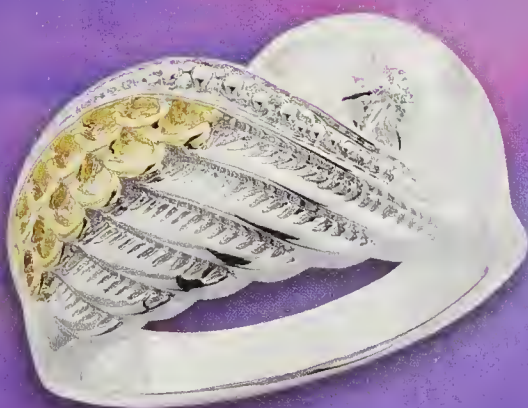
Dismal Swamp State Park: (252) 771-6593, ncparks.gov

North River Campground: (252) 336-4414, northrivercampground.com

Camden County: (252) 338-6363, camdencountync.gov

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Testing for radon is a must

Don't make assumptions based on your type of house or its location

Q: I'm having a baby soon and my friend recommended that I test our house for radon before the baby arrives. We live in eastern North Carolina in a house with a crawlspace. I thought that radon wasn't a problem in our area or in homes with crawlspaces. Should we bother with a test?

A: Testing for radon is inexpensive and a common-sense way to minimize the chances of lung cancer in your household, especially for your new baby. Radon is more prevalent in certain parts of the state; but, like winning the lottery or snow at the North Carolina coast, it can happen.

What is radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is emitted when uranium decays. Uranium is found in trace amounts within rock formations all over the world. Radon gets into buildings most often through the soil beneath them and occasionally through the groundwater. Once inside the building, the gas gets trapped and accumulates.

What's the big deal?

You may be thinking, "So what? This has been happening for eons and we've only been worrying about it in recent decades." This concern is linked to recent research studies that have repeatedly shown an association of radon to lung cancer. In the U.S., the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates 159,480 lung cancer deaths in 2013. Of these deaths, the NIH estimates that 15,000 to 22,000 will be attributed to radon exposure. That's a lot of people!

What's the solution?

Luckily, we can lower the number of lung cancer deaths attributed to radon if people test and fix their homes. Why homes? If you consider the proportion of hours spent at home, work or school, the majority of your time is spent at home.



Get a test kit and find help at ncradon.org or call (919) 571-4141.

Testing is easy and inexpensive. Visit ncradon.org or call (919) 571-4141 to purchase a short-term radon test kit. A kit costs less than \$5 or is free if you have a newborn. If you can open a plastic bag, set a tester in an appropriate location and get it in the mail within the stipulated number of days, you can easily spare the time to test for radon.


If your test detects a problem, it is a relatively affordable home repair—comparable to installing an exhaust fan. The website and phone number above can help you locate a certified radon mitigator to make a repair.

Don't make assumptions.

Both drafty houses and energy-efficient houses should be tested. Homes with crawlspaces, basements or slab foundations should all be tested. If you live in a new house, don't assume

that the builder tested for radon. It is not a North Carolina building code requirement.

My friend in Wake Forest found high levels of radon in his home. Neither of his neighbors had high levels of radon. Thankfully, he was able to fix the problem by installing a mitigation system which consists of a small exhaust fan and vent pipe. A test was conducted after installing the mitigation system to make sure that it was working properly.

Don't make assumptions based on your type of house or its location. Testing for radon is a must. When you are knowledgeable and fix the problem, should one exist, you take charge of the situation rather than waiting to win the "Radon Lottery." 

Hannah McKenzie is a residential building science consultant for Advanced Energy in Raleigh. www.advancedenergy.org

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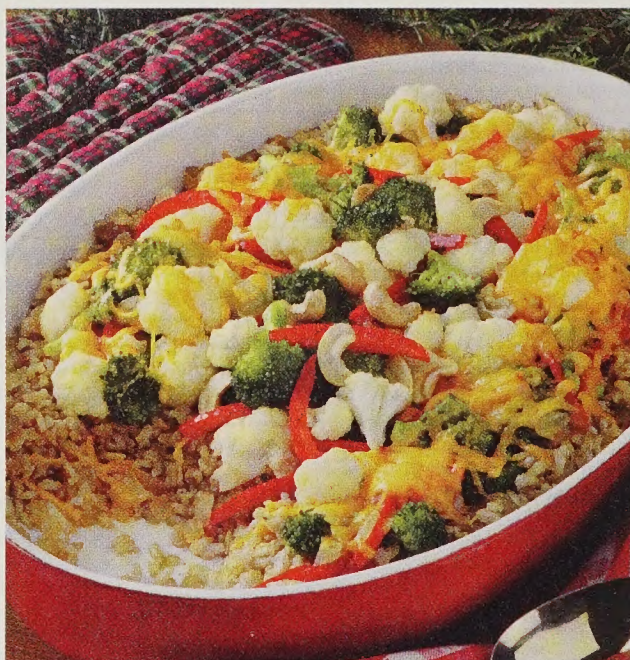
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Brown Rice Vegetable Casserole

- 3 cups chicken broth
- 1½ cups uncooked brown rice
- 2 cups chopped onions, divided
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- 4 cups fresh cauliflowerets
- 4 cups broccoli florets
- 2 medium sweet red peppers, julienned
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup salted cashew halves
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese, optional



In a greased 3-quart baking dish, combine the broth, rice, 1 cup onions, soy sauce, butter and thyme. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 65–70 minutes or until rice is tender.

Meanwhile, in a large skillet, sauté the cauliflower, broccoli, peppers, garlic and remaining onions in oil until crisp-tender; spoon over rice mixture.

Cover and bake for 10 minutes. Uncover; sprinkle with cashews and cheese if desired. Bake 5–7 minutes longer or until cheese is melted.

Yield: 8–10 servings



Savory Mushroom & Herb Pork Roast

- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 12 fresh baby carrots
- 1 (3 to 4 pound) boneless pork shoulder butt roast
- 1 can (10¾ ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- ¾ cup chicken broth
- 1 can (4 ounces) mushroom stems and pieces, drained
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- ½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
- ¼ teaspoon dried marjoram
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons cold water
- French-fried onions, optional

Place onions and carrots in a 5-quart slow cooker. Cut roast in half; add to slow cooker. In a small bowl, combine the soup, broth, mushrooms, thyme, Worcestershire sauce, rosemary, marjoram and pepper; pour over pork. Cover and cook on low for 5–6 hours or until meat is tender.

Remove pork to a serving platter; keep warm. Skim fat from cooking juices; transfer to a large saucepan. Bring liquid to a boil. Combine cornstarch and water until smooth; gradually stir into the pan. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened.

Serve pork with gravy. Sprinkle servings with French-fried onions if desired.

From Your Kitchen

Pimento Cheese Dip

- 1 bag (16-ounce) shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 jar (8-ounce) diced pimento
- 1 can (10-ounce) Ro-Tel Diced Original Tomatoes and Green Chilies, drained
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup sour cream
- Tabasco, to taste

Mix all ingredients and blend well. Chill for several hours before serving with crackers of your choice.

*Recipe courtesy of
Betty Lail of New London*

Send Us Your Recipes

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Ice Cream Sandwich Dessert

- 17 miniature ice cream sandwiches, divided
- 1 jar (12 ounces) caramel ice cream topping
- 1 container (12 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- ¼ cup chocolate syrup
- 1 Symphony candy bar (7 ounces), chopped

Arrange 14 ice cream sandwiches in an ungreased 13-by-9-by-2-inch dish. Cut remaining sandwiches in half lengthwise; fill in the spaces in the dish. Spread with caramel and whipped topping. Drizzle with chocolate syrup. Sprinkle with chopped candy bar. Cover and freeze for at least 45 minutes. Cut into squares.

Yield: 15-18

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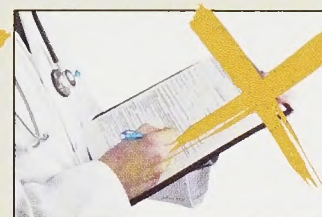
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